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Charlton Classics presents

HERCULES



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MIGHTY WERE THE DEEDS OF HERCULES! WONDROUS FEATS DID HE ACCOMPLISH TO PROVE THAT HE WAS WORTHY TO DWELL WITH HIS FATHER ZEUS, CHIEF OF ALL THE GODS, IN LOFTY OLYMPUS! FIRST, HE VANQUISHED THE LION OF NEMEA (WHOSE HIDE NOW SERVES AS HERCULES' GARB) IN HAND TO HAND COMBAT! NEXT, HE TRIUMPHED OVER GERION, A MONSTER WHO INHABITED THREE BODIES! BUT COULD EVEN THIS HERO PERFORM THE THIRD TASK ASSIGNED TO HIM... TO COMBAT THE FORCES OF DREAD HADES, LAIR OF THE DEAD?

ADVENTURES OF THE MAN-GOD **HERCULES** The NeTherWoRld!



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EVEN THE MIGHTIEST OF MORTALS MUST REST, AND SO WE FIND HERCULES SLEEPING PEACEFULLY NEAR A TINY GRECIAN VILLAGE...GARBED IN THE HIDE OF THE LION HE HAD SLAIN AND NOW WEARING A BEARD WHICH WAS THE FASHION OF THE TIMES...

NICE MANS!

CHILDI COME AWAY FROM THERE, BEFORE GREAT HARM BEFALLS YOU!



CAN YOU NOT SEE THAT THIS IS NO MANT HIS GREAT SIZE...HIS FIERCE EXPRESSION...THIS IS A BRUTE!

HUNH??



THIS IS IT ALWAYS! MEN FEAR ME...AND GODS REFUSE MY COMPANY! CAN THERE BE ANOTHER ON EARTH SO LONELY? OH, WOULD THAT I COULD JOIN MY FATHER ON OLYMPUS!



BUT THIS MAY NOT COME TO PASS UNTIL I PROVE MY WORTHINESS BY PERFORMING ALL THE TASKS THE GODS ASSIGN TO ME!

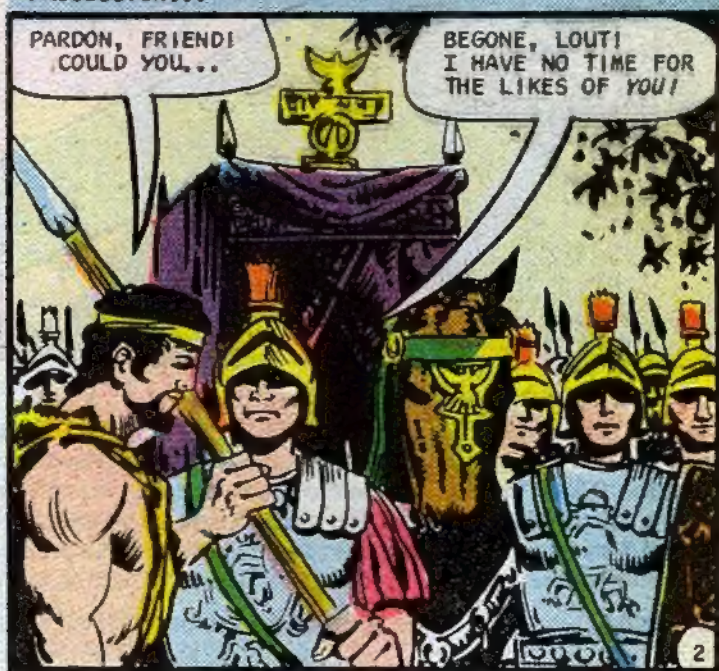
SOLDIERS! PERHAPS THEY WILL GIVE ME FOOD AND SHELTER FOR THE NIGHT! I WILL ASK...!



RUNNING FLEETLY, HERCULES SOON DRAWS UP TO THE PROCESSION...

PARDON, FRIEND! COULD YOU...

BEGONE, LOU! I HAVE NO TIME FOR THE LIKES OF YOU!





BEGONE, I SAY!

FOOL! NO MORTAL STRIKES
HERCULES! YOUR BREATHS
ARE NUMBERED... AND IT
IS A SMALL NUMBER!



HE HAS FELLE
CENTUS!

IT IS A SAC-
RILEGE TO DIS-
RUPT A FUNERAL
PROCESSION!

SLAY THE IN-
TRUDER, COM-
RADES! LEAVE
HIS BODY FOR
THE DOGS!

THERE ARE MANY
OF THEM...



...ENOUGH TO PROVIDE A PLEASANT EXERCISE
FOR ME!

COME, INSOLENT ONES! I SHALL MATCH
MY TREE AGAINST YOUR SWORDS!



YOU FIGHT AS OLD WOMEN!
IS THIS TWIG I HOLD MORE
POWERFUL THAN YOUR BLADES!

HE... HE IS MORE
THAN HUMAN!



BAHI WERE YOU WORTHY FOES,
I WOULD LET YOU LIVE! BUT
SUCH WEAKLINGS DO NOT DE-
SERVE LIFE...!

HOLD,
HERCULES!



WHO SPEAKS MY NAME?

YOUR OLD FRIEND... KING ADMETUS!



ADMETUS! TIS GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN! BY THE GODS, YOU HAVE NOT CHANGED A WHIT SINCE LAST WE MET!

UHH... TH-THANK YOU... BUT I SHALL... CH-CHANGE... FROM LIVING TO DEAD... UNLESS YOU LET ME GO AND PERMIT ME TO BREATHE!



FORGIVE ME! AND TELL WHY YOU FOLLOW THIS BLACK PARADE!

I SHALL NOT SPEAK THE TRUE REASON, FOR THAT WOULD SADDEN THE MIGHTY HERCULES! BETTER HE SHOULD NOT KNOW!

A...A SERVING GIRL DIED! WE GO TO BURY HER!



BUT IT IS NO CONCERN OF YOURS! GO YONDER TO MY CASTLE... REFRESH YOURSELF! I SHALL JOIN YOU PRESENTLY!

I ACCEPT YOUR OFFER MOST GRATEFULLY, ADMETUS!

HERE IS A TRULY NOBLE MAN! HIS FACE... HIS VOICE... SO HEAVY WITH GRIEF FOR A MERE SERVANT!



AND, AS THE RED SUN SLIPS BELOW THE HORIZON, HERCULES ENTERS THE CASTLE OF HIS FRIEND...

FOLLOW, MASTER HERCULES! WE HAVE PREPARED MEAT AND WINE FOR YOU!

MY THANKS, FRIEND!

IN TRUTH, ALL I SEE ARE MOURNING! THE WOMAN WHO DIED... SHE MUST HAVE BEEN LOVELY INDEED TO CAUSE SUCH SADNESS!



THEN, AS THE MAN-GOD SUPS...

COME... ENJOY THIS FEAST WITH ME!

NO... NO, WE SHOULD NOT! IT IS NOT PROPER!

WHAT?!? HOW DARE YOU REFUSE...?
YOU SHALL BE PUNISHED FOR YOUR
INSOLENCE!

DO AS YOU WILL, HERCULES! I WILL NOT
EAT WHILE I MOURN FOR MY QUEEN, THE
GENTLE ALCESTIS!

ALCESTIS... DEAD! THEN... IT
WAS HIS WIFE THAT LIE IN THE FUNER-
AL CARRIAGE OF ADMETUS! NOT A SERV-
ING GIRL!

THE GOOD KING DID NOT TELL ME... DID NOT
WISH TO SPOIL MY ENJOYMENT!

WHERE DO YOU
GO?

I HAVE BEHAVED LIKE AN
ANIMAL! I SHALL MAKE
AMENDS FOR MY ACTION... IN
THE ONLY MANNER POSSIBLE!

I SHALL BRING ALCESTIS BACK...
FROM BEYOND THE GRAVE!

AND SO, MOMENTS LATER, AT THE HOME OF THE GODS...
THE SHINING OLYMPUS... MIGHTY ZEUS HEARS A CALL
FROM EARTH!

HEAR ME,
FATHER!

MY SON, HERCULES, SUMMONS
ME!

AND YOU RUN TO HEAR HIM!
HMPH! YOU ARE THE SUPREME
AMONG THE IMMORTALS... AND YET
YOU HEED THE SNIVELING OF A
PUNY EARTHLING!

HOLD YOUR SNAPPISH TONGUE, WIFE HERAI!
AS YOU SAID, I AM SUPREME, AND I DO AS
I PLEASE!

WHILE HERCULES, THE SON OF MY HUSBAND'S FIRST WIFE LIVES, I CAN NEVER HAVE ZEUS' WHOLE LOVE... AND NOTHING LESS WILL SATISFY ME!

HERCULES MUST PERISH! AND I WILL NOT REST UNTIL HE DOES!



AND, EVEN AS HERA BEGINS YET ANOTHER PLOT AGAINST HERCULES, ZEUS APPEARS IN MORTAL FORM...

WHAT IS IT, MY SON? DO YOU WISH SOME TASK TO PROVE YOUR WORTHINESS TO LIVE WITH THE GODS? I HAVE ONE...

NO, FATHER ZEUS! MY TASKS CAN WAIT... I HAVE A MORE IMPORTANT FAVOR TO ASK!



AFTER HERCULES EXPLAINS WHAT HAS HAPPENED, HE MAKES HIS STRANGE REQUEST...

...AND I ASK YOU TO SHOW ME THE ENTRANCE TO HADES, THE SPIRIT WORLD WHERE THE SOULS OF THE DEAD REST!

YOU WOULD BRAVE THE TERRORS OF HADES TO BRING COMFORT TO YOUR FRIEND, EH, HERCULES? TRULY, YOU HAVE A BRAVE HEART! I WILL GRANT YOUR REQUEST...AND MORE!



LOOK UPON THE IMAGE I CREATE, HERCULES! IT IS THE FORM OF CEREBUS, THE HOUND OF HADES! IF YOU CAN DEFEAT THIS MONSTER IN COMBAT, IT WILL COUNT AS ANOTHER TASK!

YOU MEAN...IT WILL BRING ME CLOSER TO OLYMPUS? THEN I WILL DO BOTH...DEFEAT CEREBUS AND BRING ALCESTIS BACK FROM THE SHORES OF DEATH!



THE ENTRANCE TO THE UNDERWORLD IS A CAVE, HALF-WAY UP THAT CLIFF! THERE YOU MUST CLIMB...

THERE IS NONE! I HOPE YOUR STRENGTH... AND YOUR INTELLIGENCE ...CAN SOLVE THE PROBLEM!

BUT THE...CLIFF IS SHEER ROCK! I SEE NO PLACE TO PUT HAND OR FOOT!



FEAR NOT, FATHER ZEUS! HERCULES SHALL FIND A WAY!

THE BRAGGART! I SHALL SILENCE HIS BOASTING FOREVER!



STRIDING SWIFTLY, HERA COMES TO THE WORKSHOP OF HEFESTUS, THE MAKER OF TOOLS...

HEFESTUS! I HAVE WORK FOR YOU!

CAN'T YOU SEE I'M BUSY? WHATEVER IT IS YOU NEED DONE, IT WILL WAIT!

I COMMAND YOU TO ATTEND ME!

ALL RIGHT, HERA! YOU OUT-RANK ME... I MUST OBEY! BUT MAKE YOUR REQUEST QUICKLY! I HAVEN'T TIME FOR YOUR WHIMS!

I NEED A MILLION SPEAR HEADS... IMMEDIATELY!

A MILLION? I MUST USE MAGIC TO FILL THIS ORDER... AND WHAT I MAKE BY MAGIC IS INFERIOR TO WHAT I MAKE BY HAND!

THEY CAN BE INFERIOR, AS LONG AS THEY ARE SHARP!

STAND BACK, WOMAN!

EXCELLENT! I COMPLIMENT YOU!

NOW, PUSH THEM OVER THE EDGE OF OLYMPUS! I WISH THEM TO FALL ON EARTH!

DO THIS! DO THAT! YOU ARE NEVER SATISFIED...!

HEFESTUS IS A DOLT! HE DOES NOT EVEN ASK WHY HERA DOES THIS THING! BUT I CAN GUESS!

UNSEEN BY HERA, BEAUTIFUL APHRODITE... GODDESS OF LOVE... STANDS NEARBY.

THE LOVELIEST CREATURE IN THE UNIVERSE DASHES TO THE DWELLING OF ZEUS...

MIGHTY ZEUS...!

ARE THEY MORE IMPORTANT THAN YOUR SON?

UNLESS WHAT YOU HAVE TO SAY IS VITAL, DO NOT BOTHER ME, BEAUTEOS ONE! MY THUNDER-BOLTS ARE DINGY...LONG OVER-DUE FOR A CLEANING!



HERA IS CAUSING A RAIN OF SPEARS TO FALL UPON HERCULES!

CURSE THAT MEDDLING WIFE OF MINE! I MUST SUMMON THE GOD OF THE WINDS!



AEOLUS! ATTEND ME!

WHAT IS IT, KING ZEUS?!



FIND HERCULES, AND MAKE A HUGE WIND STORM ABOVE HIS HEAD!

IT SHALL BE DONE!

BLESS YOU, ZEUS! TRULY, YOU ARE A WORTHY LEADER!



WHAT CONCERN IS THE FATE OF HERCULES TO YOU, APHRODITE?

HE...HE IS MOST HANDSOME! WHEN HE ATTAINS THE STATUS OF A GOD, I WOULD LIKE TO...TO KNOW HIM BETTER!



MEANWHILE, HERCULES HAS REACHED THE CLIFF, AND THERE PAUSES TO LOOK AT THE SKY!

VERILY, IT APPEARS AS THOUGH WE ARE ABOUT TO HAVE RAIN! GOOD, GOOD...IT WILL COOL ME BEFORE I BEGIN CLIMBING!



LOOK NOW UPON THREE SEPARATE PARTS OF CREATION AT ONCE...A VIEW LIKE THAT OF ZEUS HIMSELF!

WHAT MANNER OF RAIN
IS THIS?

FASTER...FASTER!

I'M DOING THE BEST
I CAN!

GLEAMING DEATH POURS FROM
ABOVE! THERE IS NO PLACE I CAN HIDE!
AM I DOOMED...?

I SEE HERCULES...
AND I UNDERSTAND WHAT ZEUS
WOULD HAVE ME DO!

THE BLADES ARE BEING DRIVEN INTO
THE CLIFF WALL...AS I AM CERTAIN
ZEUS HOPED!

I AM SAVED!

BUT, AT THAT INSTANT, THE GOD OF WINDS EMPTIES HIS
IMMORTAL LUNGS...

WHOOOSH

NAY, MORE THAN SAVED! FOR THE SPEARS NOW FORM HANDHOLDS IN THE CLIFF WALL! I THOUGHT IT WOULD TAKE MONTHS...PERHAPS YEARS...TO ATTAIN MY GOAL...



...BUT NOW, IT WILL BE A MATTER OF MEREST MINUTES!



SOON...

BY THE GODS, TIS A GRIM PLACE! I WONDER IF ANY MORTALS HAVE EVER ENTERED HERE!

WHY, YES, HERCULES ...QUITE A NUMBER!

WHO SPEAKS?



I...PLUTO...BROTHER OF ZEUS AND LORD OF THE NETHERWORLD! ENTER, HERCULES!

I AM PLEASED TO MEET THE BROTHER OF MY FATHER!

I AM NOT PLEASED TO MEET YOU, PUNY MORTAL!



ZEUS TOLD ME OF YOUR MISSION! I DO NOT APPROVE...MORTALS SICKEN ME...BUT YOU MAY CONTINUE YOUR QUEST! I WILL NOT INTERFERE!

MY THANKS! BUT... WHAT ARE THOSE WEAPONS?! THERE MUST BE A THOUSAND ...!



NO MAN MAY ENTER HADES ARMED! THESE BELONGED TO OTHER MORTALS WHO DARED THE PERILS OF MY DOMAIN! NONE EVER RETURNED TO CLAIM THEM!

HAVE A PLEASANT JOURNEY, HERCULES!

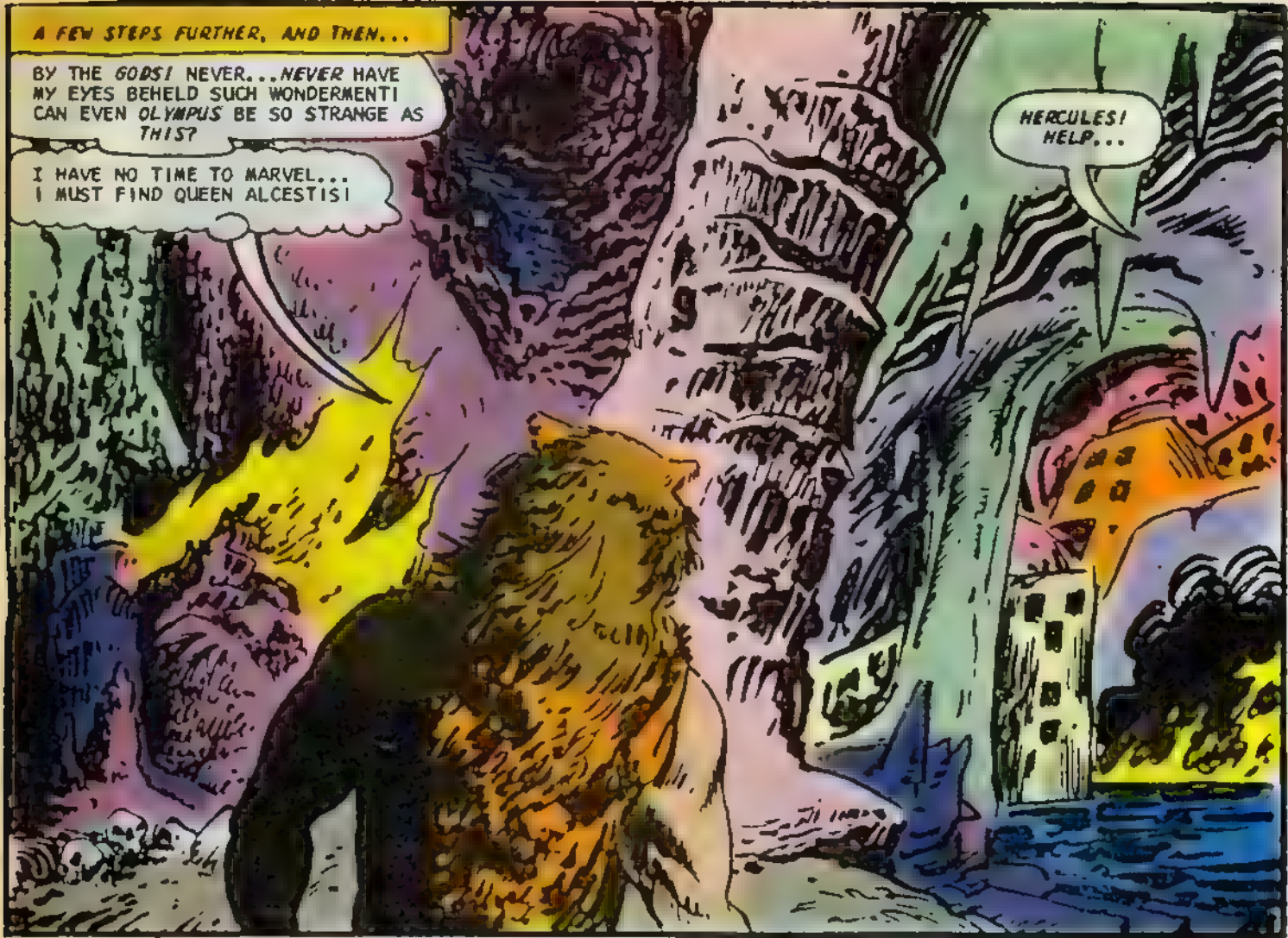


A FEW STEPS FURTHER, AND THEN...

BY THE GODS! NEVER...NEVER HAVE MY EYES BEHELD SUCH WONDERMENT! CAN EVEN OLYMPUS BE SO STRANGE AS THIS?

I HAVE NO TIME TO MARVEL... I MUST FIND QUEEN ALCESTIS!

HERCULES! HELP...



IT IS USELESS TO STRUGGLE, WOMAN! NO MORTAL CHEATS ME!

HERCULES...DO NOT LET HIM LOCK ME IN A CELL OF ETERNITY...FOR ONCE THE DOOR CLOSES BEHIND ME, I AM DOOMED TO REMAIN HERE FOR ALL TIME!

IT IS ALCESTIS, IN THE GRIP OF HE WHO IS CALLED DEATH!



AN INTRUDER! A PUNY EARTHLING!

AYE, AN EARTHLING, BUT NO PUNY ONE! PREPARE TO COMBAT HERCULES!



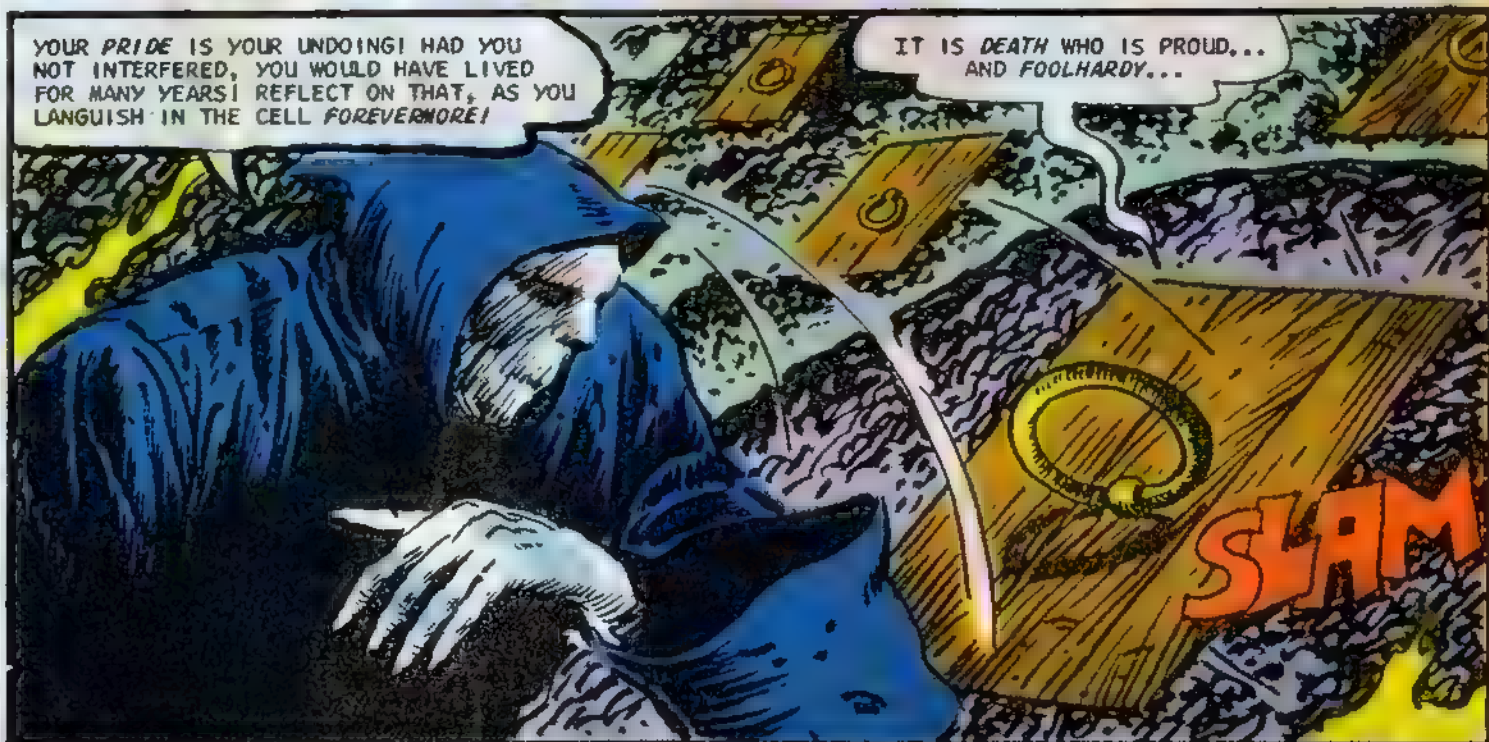


I FEAR NO CREATURE,
MORTAL OR IMMORTAL
...NOT EVEN DEATH
HIMSELF!

YOU ARE NOT COURAGEOUS...
YOU ARE FOOLHARDY!



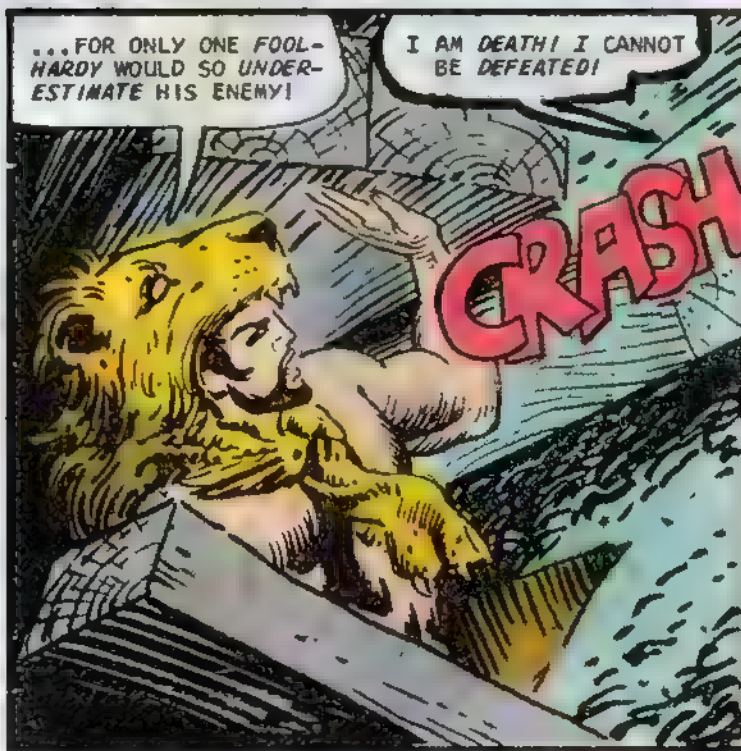
I AM INVINCIBLE! YOU SEEK TO
FREE THE WOMAN! INSTEAD, YOU
SHALL BE IMPRISONED IN THE
CELL OF ETERNITY...



YOUR PRIDE IS YOUR UNDOING! HAD YOU
NOT INTERFERED, YOU WOULD HAVE LIVED
FOR MANY YEARS! REFLECT ON THAT, AS YOU
LANGUISH IN THE CELL FOREVERMORE!

IT IS DEATH WHO IS PROUD...
AND FOOLHARDY...

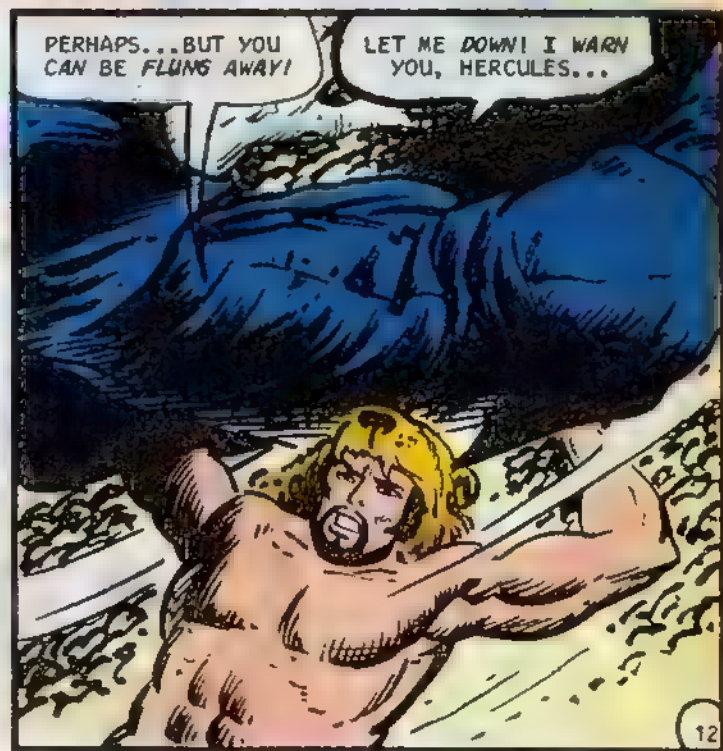
SLAM



...FOR ONLY ONE FOOL-
HARDY WOULD SO UNDER-
ESTIMATE HIS ENEMY!

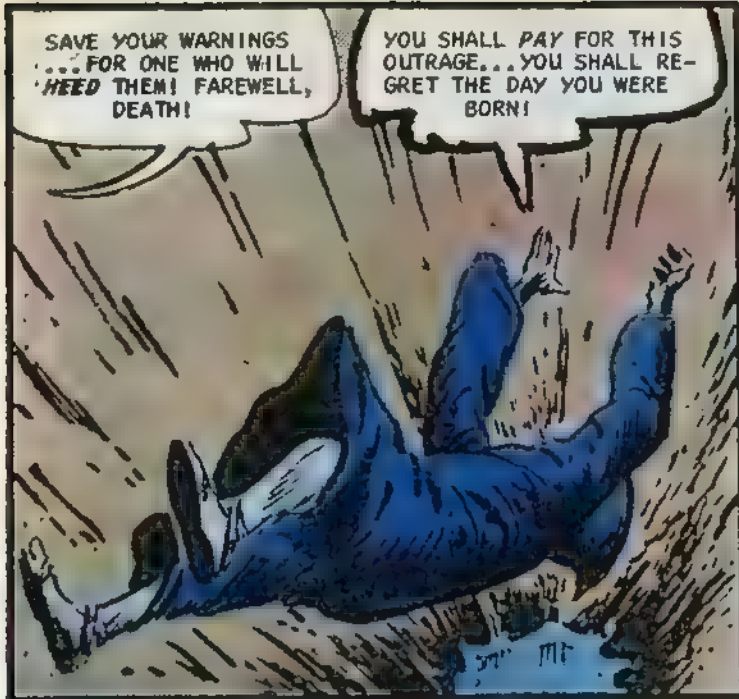
I AM DEATH! I CANNOT
BE DEFEATED!

CRASH



PERHAPS...BUT YOU
CAN BE FLUNG AWAY!

LET ME DOWN! I WARN
YOU, HERCULES...



SAVE YOUR WARNINGS
...FOR ONE WHO WILL
HEED THEM! FAREWELL,
DEATH!

YOU SHALL PAY FOR THIS
OUTRAGE...YOU SHALL RE-
GRET THE DAY YOU WERE
BORN!



MY HANDS...WHEN I
TOUCHED HIM THEY BE-
CAME COLD AS THE
WINTER SNOWS!

SOON DEATH WILL RETURN!
HE WILL LOOSE ALL THE
DEMONS OF THE NETHER-
WORLD UPON US! WE MUST
FLEE!



FREE US ALSO!

LET US GO
WITH YOU,
NOBLE
HERCULES!

MY HEART IS HEAVY
FOR THESE PITIABLE
CREATURES...

LET US LIVE
AGAIN!



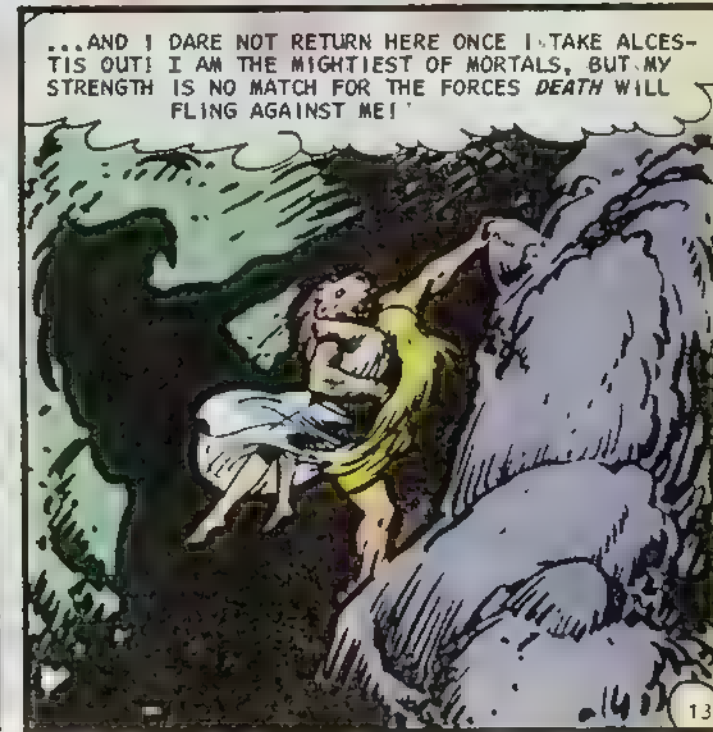
...BUT MY FATHER, ZEUS
GAVE ME PERMISSION TO RES-
CUE ONLY QUEEN ALCESTIS!
COME, MY LADY, BEFORE THE
SAD MOANS OF THOSE BEHIND
THE DOORS CAUSE ME TO
DISOBEY!

HAVE YOU A PLAN
OF ESCAPE, HER-
CULES?



NO PLAN, LADY! FOR WE NEED
NONE! ONCE WE REACH THE TOP
OF THIS WALL, WE ARE FREE!

WOULD THAT I COULD
ENCOUNTER THE THREE-
HEADED DOG, CEREBUS!
HE I MUST CONQUER IF
I AM TO JOIN MY
FATHER...



...AND I DARE NOT RETURN HERE ONCE I TAKE ALCESTIS OUT! I AM THE MIGHTIEST OF MORTALS, BUT MY STRENGTH IS NO MATCH FOR THE FORCES DEATH WILL FLING AGAINST ME!

IN RESCUING ALCESTIS, I THUS FORFEIT MY BIRTHRIGHT! I CAN NEVER RETURN TO THE NETHER-WORLD, NEVER BATTLE CEREBUS... AND SO I CAN NEVER TAKE MY PLACE ON OLYMPUS! YET, THIS MEANS NOTHING! I HAVE DONE WHAT IS RIGHT... I HAVE PAID MY DEBT TO MY FRIEND!

ARE WE AL-
MOST TO OUR
DESTINATION?

YES, MY LADY, WE HAVE
ONLY A SHORT DISTANCE...
WHAT...?

THAT SOUND! IT IS LIKE
A HUNDRED DOGS GROWL-
ING AT ONCE!

NOT A HUNDRED DOGS, MY LADY, JUST ONE! THE ONE
I SEEK! STAY HIDDEN UNTIL I CALL YOU!

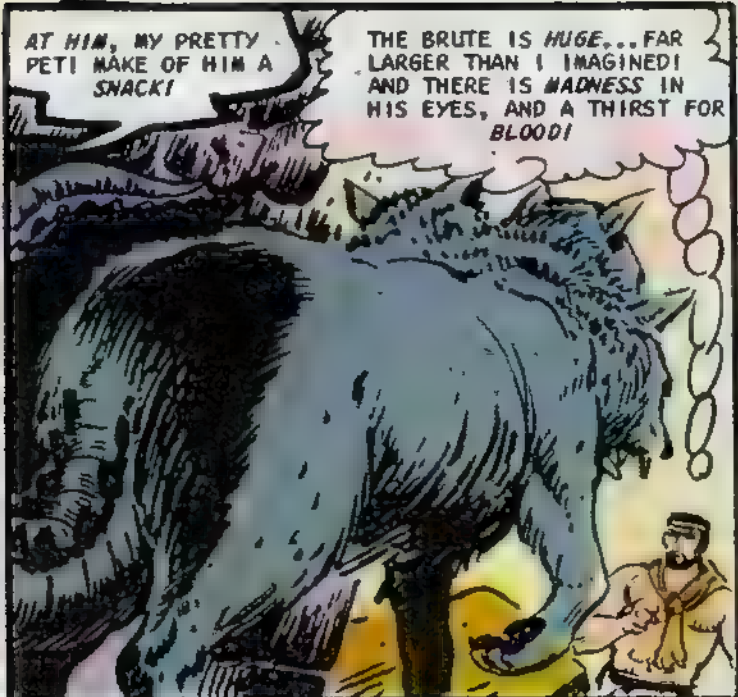
NOW, I GO TO MEET
CEREBUS!

SAY RATHER THAT CEREBUS COMES TO MEET
YOU, MEDDLING MORTAL! I SHALL HAVE MY
REVENGE... AND MY PET SHALL HAVE SPORT!

LET HIM
COME!

AT HIM, MY PRETTY
PET! MAKE OF HIM A
SNACK!

THE BRUTE IS HUGE... FAR
LARGER THAN I IMAGINED!
AND THERE IS MADNESS IN
HIS EYES, AND A THIRST FOR
BLOOD!

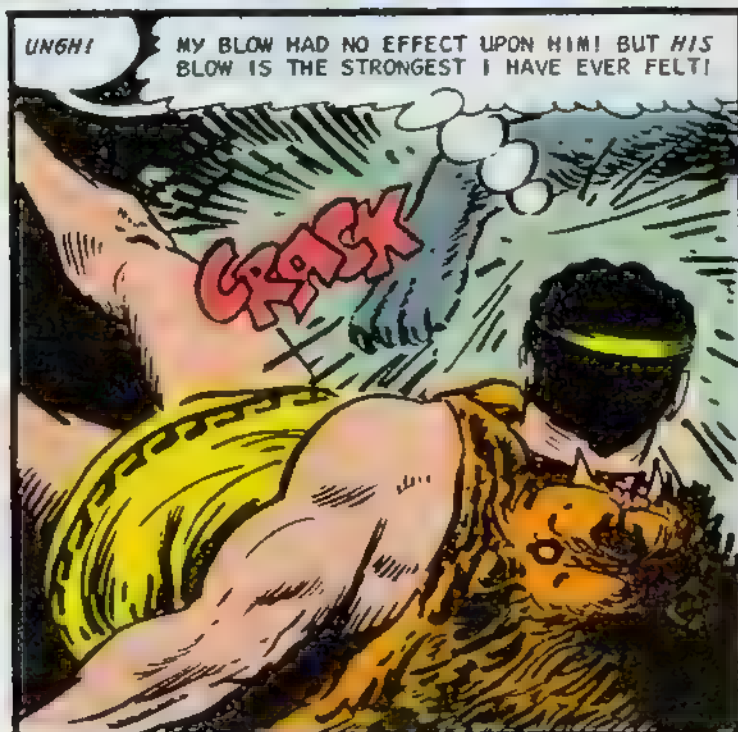


IT IS BEST THAT I STRIKE FIRST!
PERHAPS I CAN STUN HIM...!

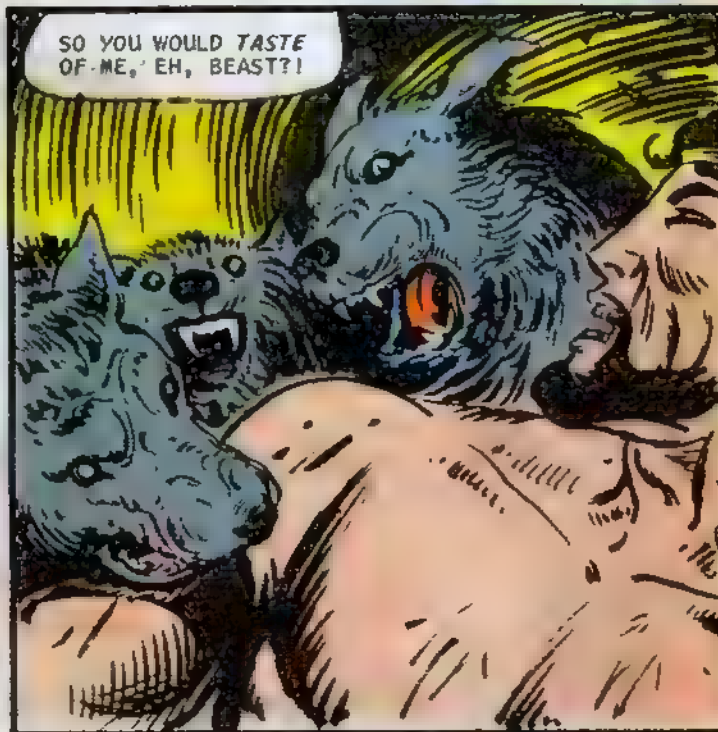


UNGH!

MY BLOW HAD NO EFFECT UPON HIM! BUT HIS
BLOW IS THE STRONGEST I HAVE EVER FELT!

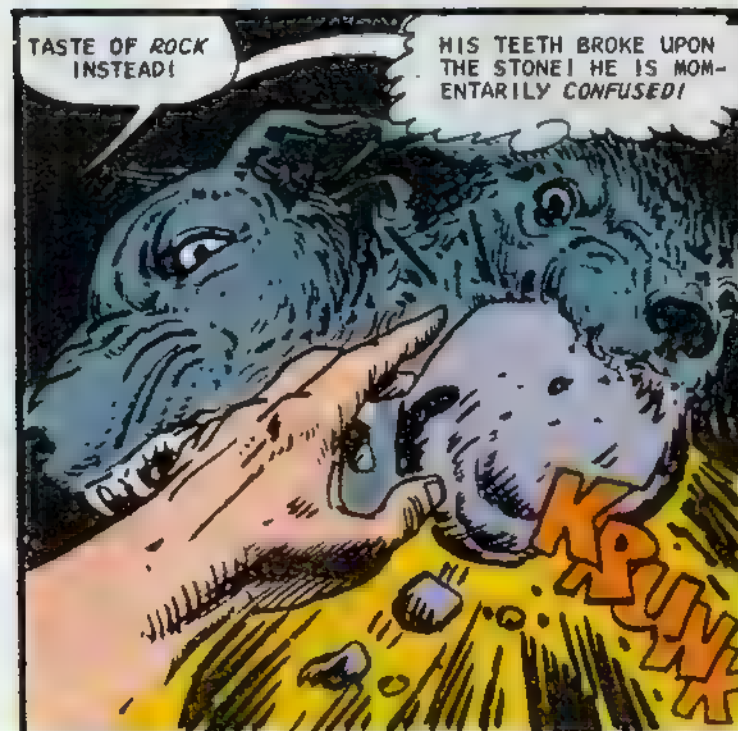


SO YOU WOULD TASTE
OF ME, EH, BEAST?!



TASTE OF ROCK
INSTEAD!

HIS TEETH BROKE UPON
THE STONE! HE IS MOM-
ENTARILY CONFUSED!



I MUST ACT... ACT DECISIVELY...
BEFORE HE CAN RECOVER!





HERCULES! BE CAREFUL!
HIS JAWS!

THEY SHALL NOT CLOSE
UPON ME, MY LADY!



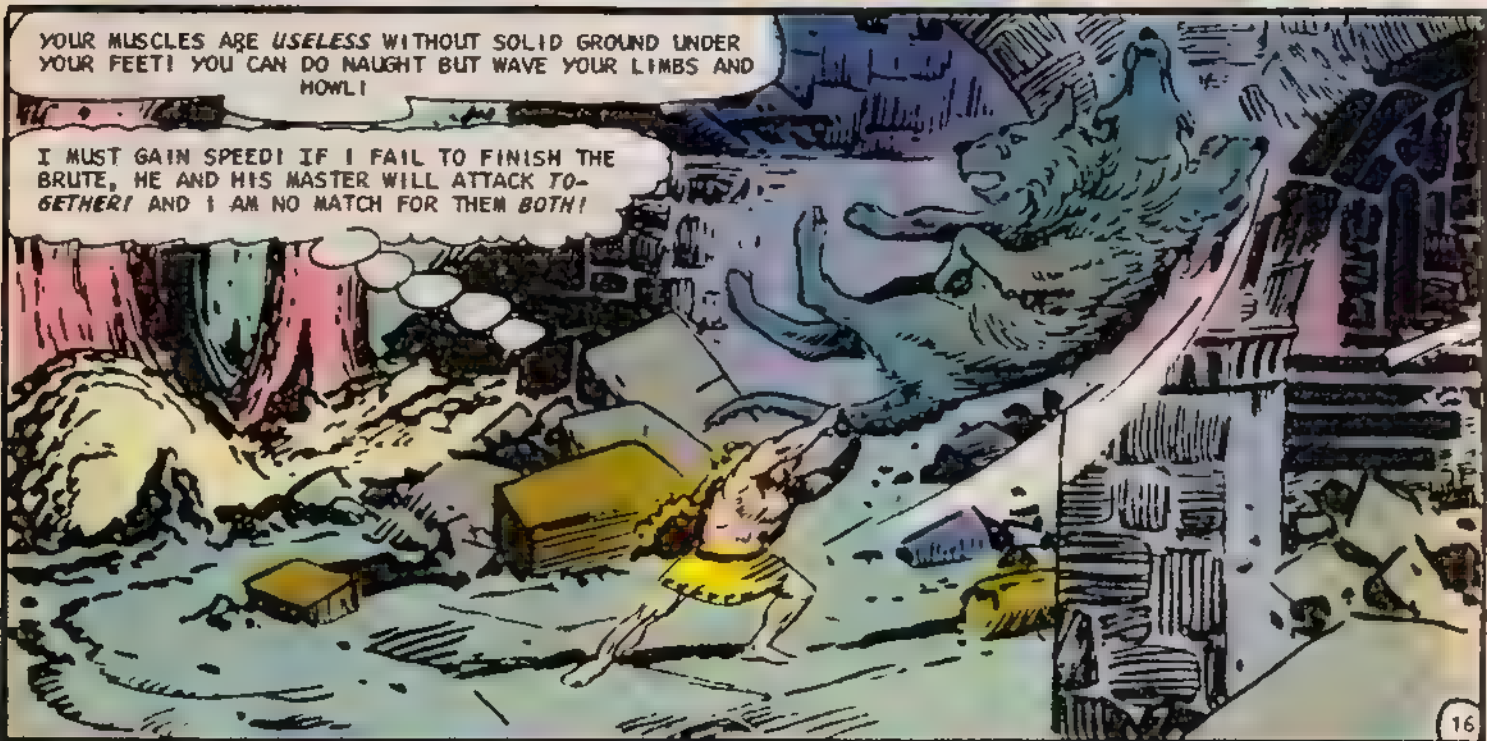
IF I CAN LEAP CLEAR OF THOSE MASSIVE HEADS...
THERE! IN HIS FRENZY, HE HAS FASTENED HIS TEETH
UPON HIS OWN FLESH!



HIS BITE HAS BROKEN THE NECK OF ONE OF HIS HEADS!
MY TASK IS TO DEAL WITH THE OTHER TWO!
I CANNOT HOPE TO BEST HIM WITH MY FISTS!
NOR CAN I PERMIT HIM TO FACE ME AGAIN!



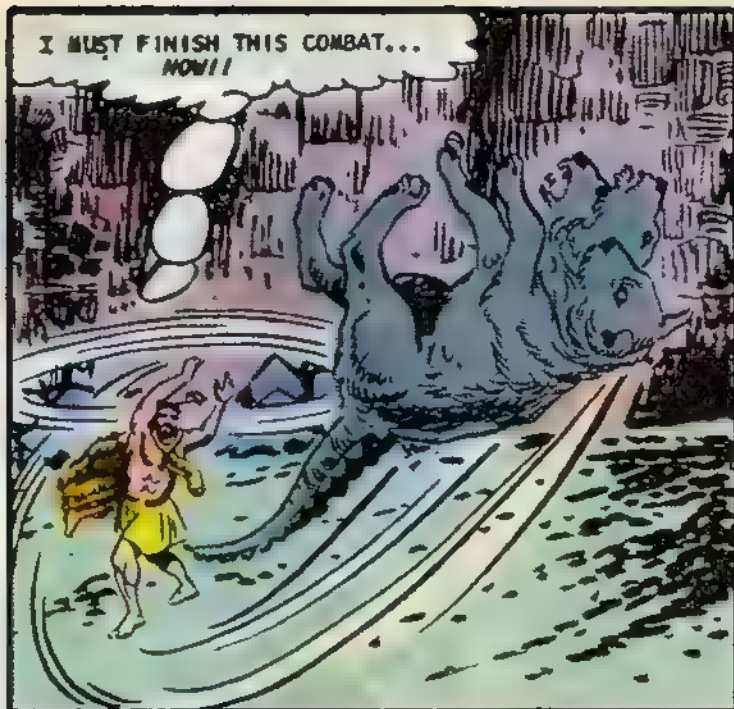
POWERFUL AS I AM, HIS MIGHT IS TEN TIMES AS GREAT
...THEREFORE, I MUST USE THE VERY WALLS OF THE
NETHERWORLD TO AID ME!



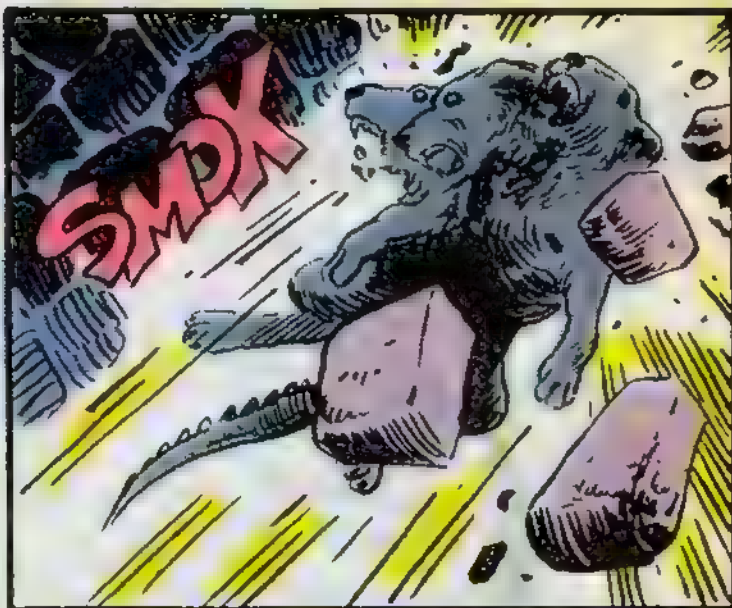
YOUR MUSCLES ARE USELESS WITHOUT SOLID GROUND UNDER
YOUR FEET! YOU CAN DO NAUGHT BUT WAVE YOUR LIMBS AND
HOWL!

I MUST GAIN SPEED! IF I FAIL TO FINISH THE
BRUTE, HE AND HIS MASTER WILL ATTACK TO-
GETHER! AND I AM NO MATCH FOR THEM BOTH!

I MUST FINISH THIS COMBAT...
NOW!!



WITH SUCH FORCE THAT THE WHOLE OF THE DARK NETHER-
WORLD IS SHAKEN, CEREBUS CRASHES AGAINST UNYIELD-
ING STONE...

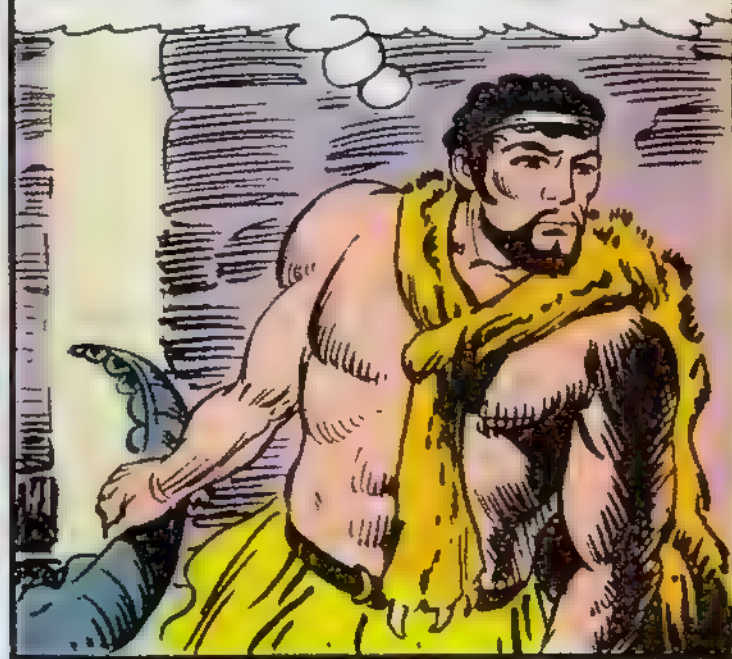


AND, A MOMENT LATER, FALLS LIFELESS BEFORE HIS
CONQUEROR!

HE IS DEAD! YET, PERHAPS HE MAY WALK AGAIN...FOR
HIS MASTER IS SUPREME JUDGE OF WHO SHALL HAVE
LIFE! I MUST REMOVE HIM FROM THE NETHERWORLD, BE-
FORE DEATH CAN WORK MAGIC UPON HIS PET!



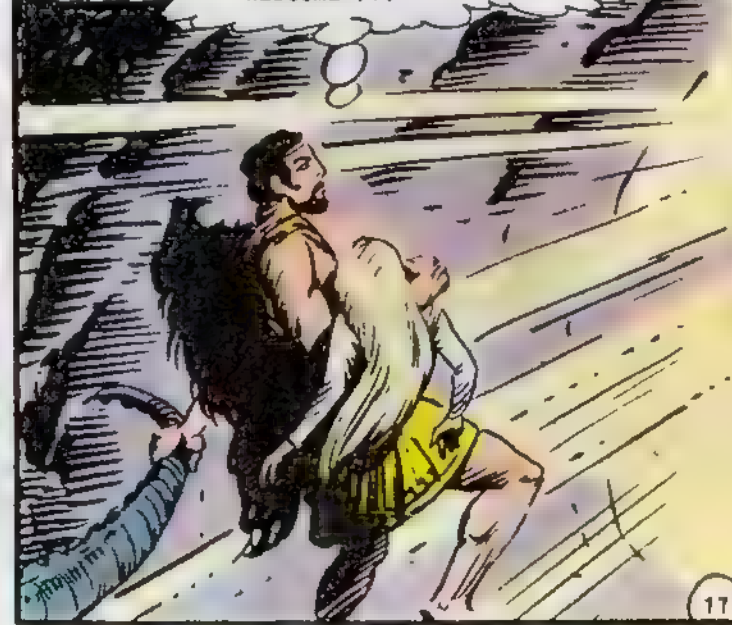
IT WILL BE A MATTER OF SECONDS ERE I REACH THE
MOUTH OF THE CAVE! BUT...WHERE IS QUEEN ALCESTIS?



THE STRAIN HAS OVERCOME HER! SHE HAS FAINTED! I
SHALL HAVE TO CARRY HER TO SAFETY...

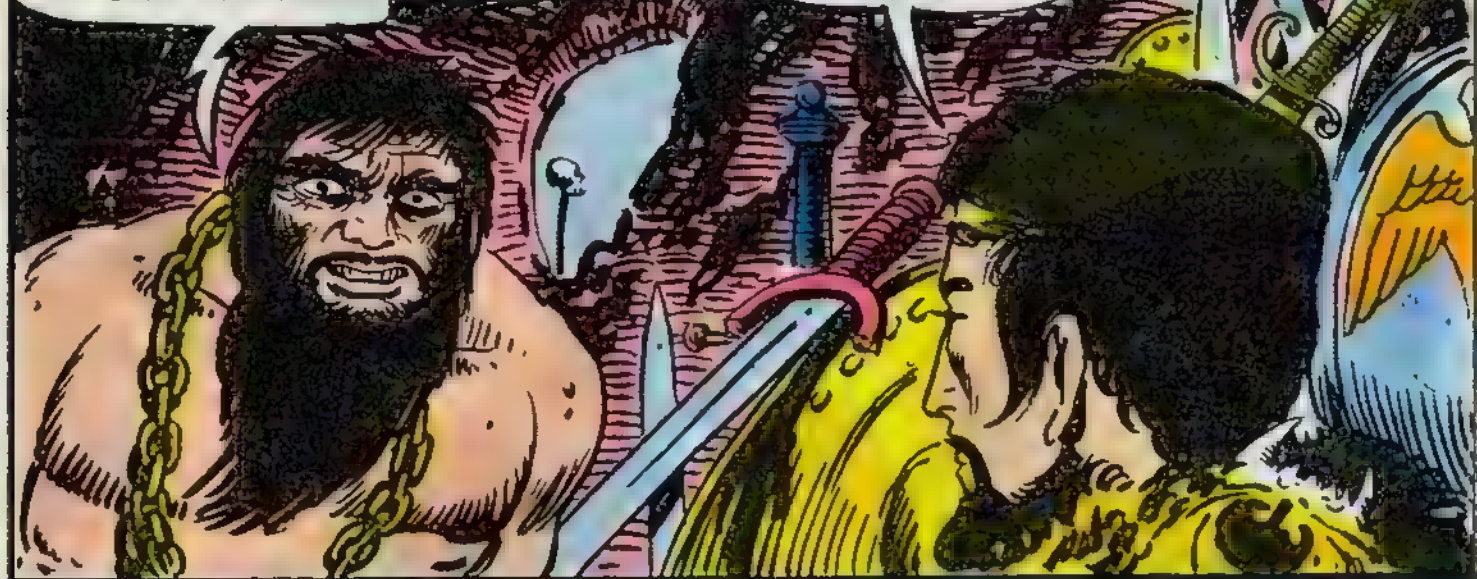


NO MATTER! SHE IS LIGHT AS A KISS! WOULD THAT
CEREBUS WERE SO TINY A BURDEN ALSO!
AHEAD, THE BLESSED LIGHT OF EARTH! I
WELCOME IT!



HERCULES! I HAVE WITNESSED YOUR VALOR AND YOUR SKILL! THOUGH I DESPISE MORTALS, I SALUTE YOU! YOU ARE A WORTHY SON OF MY BROTHER!

AND YOU ARE A FAIR GOD, EVEN THOUGH YOU ARE A BIT GLOOMY! MY REGARDS TO YOU AND YOUR SUBJECTS, PLUTO!



AIR...SUNLIGHT! HOW BEAUTIFUL THEY ARE! HOW FORTUNATE ARE WE TO BE ALIVE!

HOW...HOW CAN I EVER REPAID YOU, MIGHTY WARRIOR?

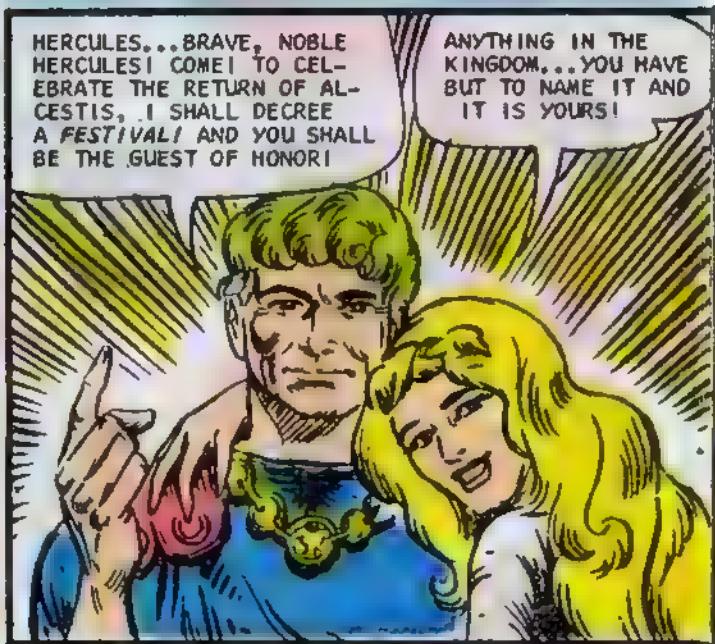
YOU HAVE ALREADY REPAID ME...BY BEING ALIVE AND LOVELY! COME, I SHALL TAKE YOU DOWN THE CLIFF, WHERE YOU MAY REJOIN YOUR GOOD HUSBAND!



GREAT IS THE JOY WHEN HUSBAND AND WIFE ARE REUNITED A FEW HOURS LATER...

HERCULES...BRAVE, NOBLE HERCULES! COME! TO CELEBRATE THE RETURN OF ALCESTIS, I SHALL DECREE A FESTIVAL! AND YOU SHALL BE THE GUEST OF HONOR!

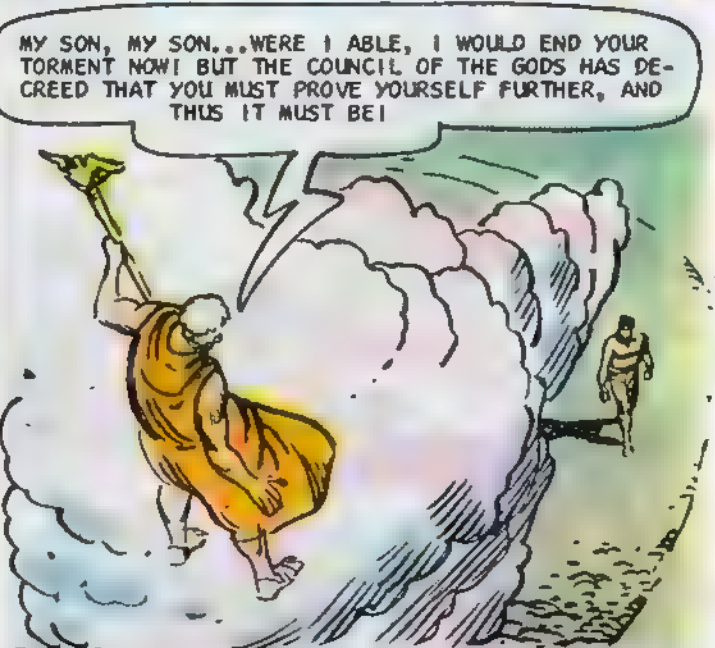
ANYTHING IN THE KINGDOM...YOU HAVE BUT TO NAME IT AND IT IS YOURS!



A KIND OFFER...BUT I MUST DECLINE! I HAVE COMPLETED ONLY THREE OF MY ORDAINED TASKS! THERE ARE MANY MORE...AND I AM ANXIOUS TO BEGIN THEM! BE OF GOOD CHEER, FRIENDS...THE GODS WILLING, WE SHALL MEET AGAIN!



MY SON, MY SON...WERE I ABLE, I WOULD END YOUR TORMENT NOW! BUT THE COUNCIL OF THE GODS HAS DECREED THAT YOU MUST PROVE YOURSELF FURTHER, AND THUS IT MUST BE!



ALONE, THE GOD-MAN WALKS INTO THE GATHERING DARKNESS, TOWARD A DESTINY FILLED WITH TRIALS, HEROISM AND ADVENTURE!

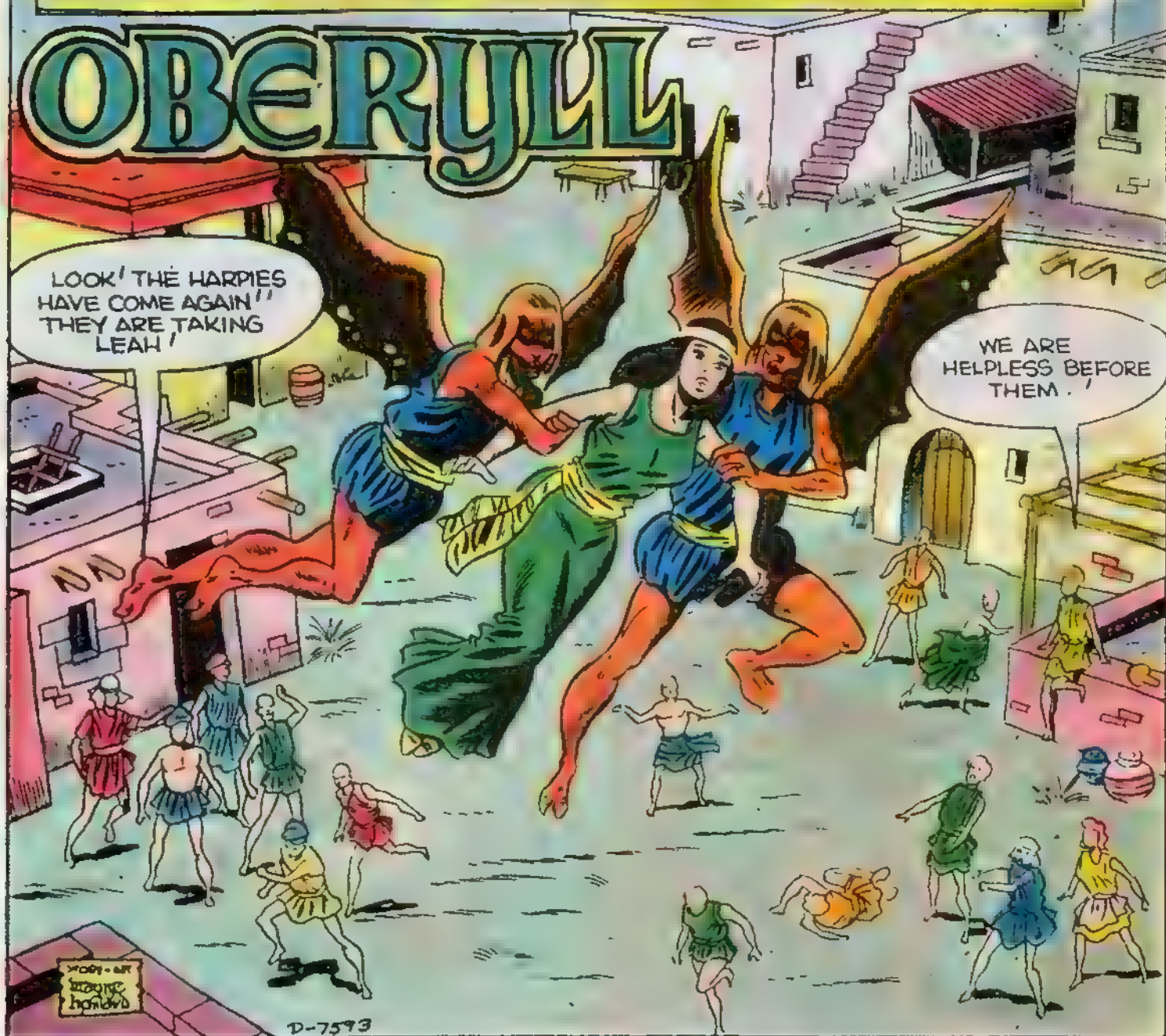
THE END

ATLANTIS WAS AN ISLAND CONTINENT IN THE ATLANTICOCEAN. ITS HISTORY HAS LARGELY BEEN SHROUDED IN MYSTERY, AS OVER THE YEARS MYTH HAS REPLACED FACT, AND LEGEND HAS SUPPLANTED REALITY. BUT A FEW MAJOR EVENTS HAVE NOT BEEN LOST TO FOLK-LORE OR SUPERSTITION SUCH IS THE STORY OF

OBERYLL

LOOK! THE HARPIES HAVE COME AGAIN!! THEY ARE TAKING LEAH!

WE ARE HELPLESS BEFORE THEM!

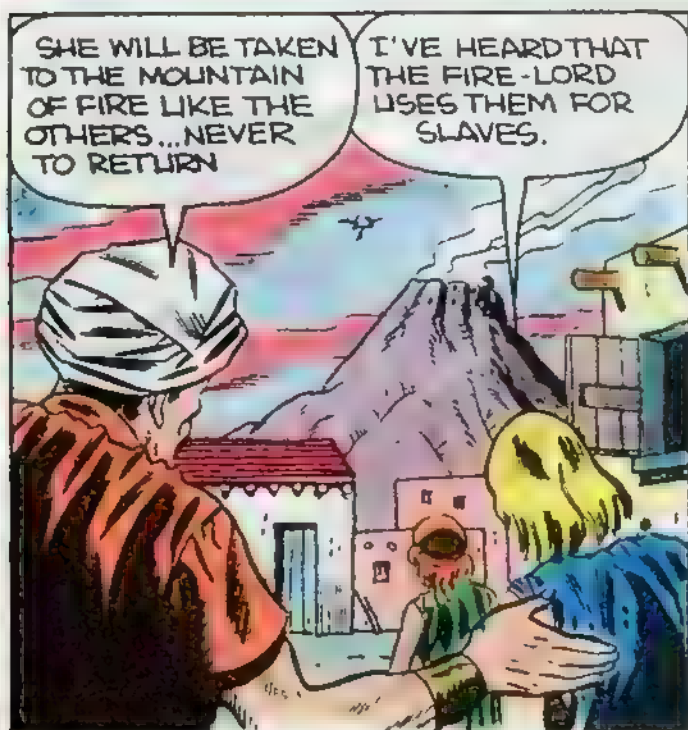


SHE WILL BE TAKEN TO THE MOUNTAIN OF FIRE LIKE THE OTHERS... NEVER TO RETURN

I'VE HEARD THAT THE FIRE-LORD USES THEM FOR SLAVES.

SLAVES? THAT IS PLEASANT INDEED COMPARED TO THE THINGS I HAVE HEARD..

SOMETHING MUST BE DONE! LET US MEET WITH THE EMPEROR AND DEMAND PROTECTION



IN THE HUGE MARBLE PALACE
THE TOWN PEOPLE TREATED
WITH THEIR EMPEROR.

SO! YOU COME TO SEEK AID
AGAINST THE EVIL ONES
OF THE FIRE MOUNTAIN!

WELL, YOU
ARE FOOLS!

WEAK SNIVELING
CHILDREN!

THE HARPIES DO NOT ATTACK
ME WITHIN MY STONE CHAMBER!
THEY DO NOT CARRY OFF MY
WIFE, BROTHER, OR
CHILDREN!

THE PROBLEM IS
YOURS AND YOU
MUST PROTECT
YOURSELVES!!

IS THERE NO CHAMPION
AMONG YOU TO FIGHT
YOUR BATTLE?

FOR LONG MOMENTS THE
FOLK SHUFFLED AROUND
AND STARED AT ONE AN-
OTHER.. UNTIL ONE
STEPPED FORWARD.

OBERYLL!

I AM BUT A HUMBLE SHIP-WRIGHT
WHO CARES LITTLE FOR BATTLE...
BUT I WILL TAKE UP THE SWORD IN
OUR BEHALF!

OBERYLL! I HAVE SEEN THIS
FELLOW! I TRUST HIM NOT...
HE IS TOO QUIET YET NOT WITH-
OUT A CERTAIN POWER! MAYHAP
HE HAS DESIGNS ON MY
THRONE...

I'VE BEEN LOOKING
FOR AN EXCUSE TO
EXECUTE HIM...BUT
THIS IS BETTER! HE
WILL NEVER SURVIVE
THIS QUEST...

THERE! YOU HAVE
YOUR CHAMPION!
NOW BEGONE!

AS OBERYLL LEFT THE PALACE THE
OTHERS SEEMED TO AVOID HIM. THEY
DROPPED THEIR HEADS AND HURRIED
PAST...

THEY ARE
AFRAID!

THEY THINK I AM ON
MY WAY TO BLAZING
DEATH!

HIS ONLY WEAPON WAS A
SMALL KNIFE WHICH HE
SECURED IN HIS TUNIC...

TRULY, THESE ARE
TROUBLED TIMES...

OBERYLL WAS NOT FAR FROM THE MOUNTAIN WHEN ...

LO! HARPIES APPROACH! THEY'RE COMING FOR ME!

I WILL NOT RESIST...THIS IS THE BEST WAY TO GET INSIDE THE MOUNTAIN...

...TO THE ROOT OF THE EVIL!

THERE WAS AN OPENING AT THE CREST OF THE MOUNTAIN WHICH BELCHED OUT ACRID FUMES..

WE'RE GOING DOWN... PERHAPS I WILL DIE FROM THE HEAT AND FOUL AIR ALONE..!

THE TUNNEL ENDED IN A LARGE CHAMBER ... A DAZZLING ARRAY OF SULPHUROUS YELLOWS AND THE HOT REDSAND ORANGES OF SMOULDERING PHOSPHEROUS LENT A MACABRE AND INFERNAL BEAUTY TO WHAT OBERYLL SAW...

THERE ARE THE REST!

AH! ANOTHER SACRIFICE FOR THE GODS OF THE MOUNTAIN!

POOLS OF MOLTEN ROCK! SO THIS IS THE FATE OF THOSE THEY CARRY OFF!!

THROW HIM IN! THE GODS WILL BE WELL PLEASED!

I MUST MAKE MY MOVE...

THE KNIFE WAS DRAWN FROM BENEATH HIS WRAP.

THAT'S ONLY TWO!
HOW WILL I STOP
THE OTHERS?

SEIZE HIM!



INSTANTLY A PLAN WAS FORMED
AND OBERYLL EXECUTED A DES-
PERATE MANEUVER!

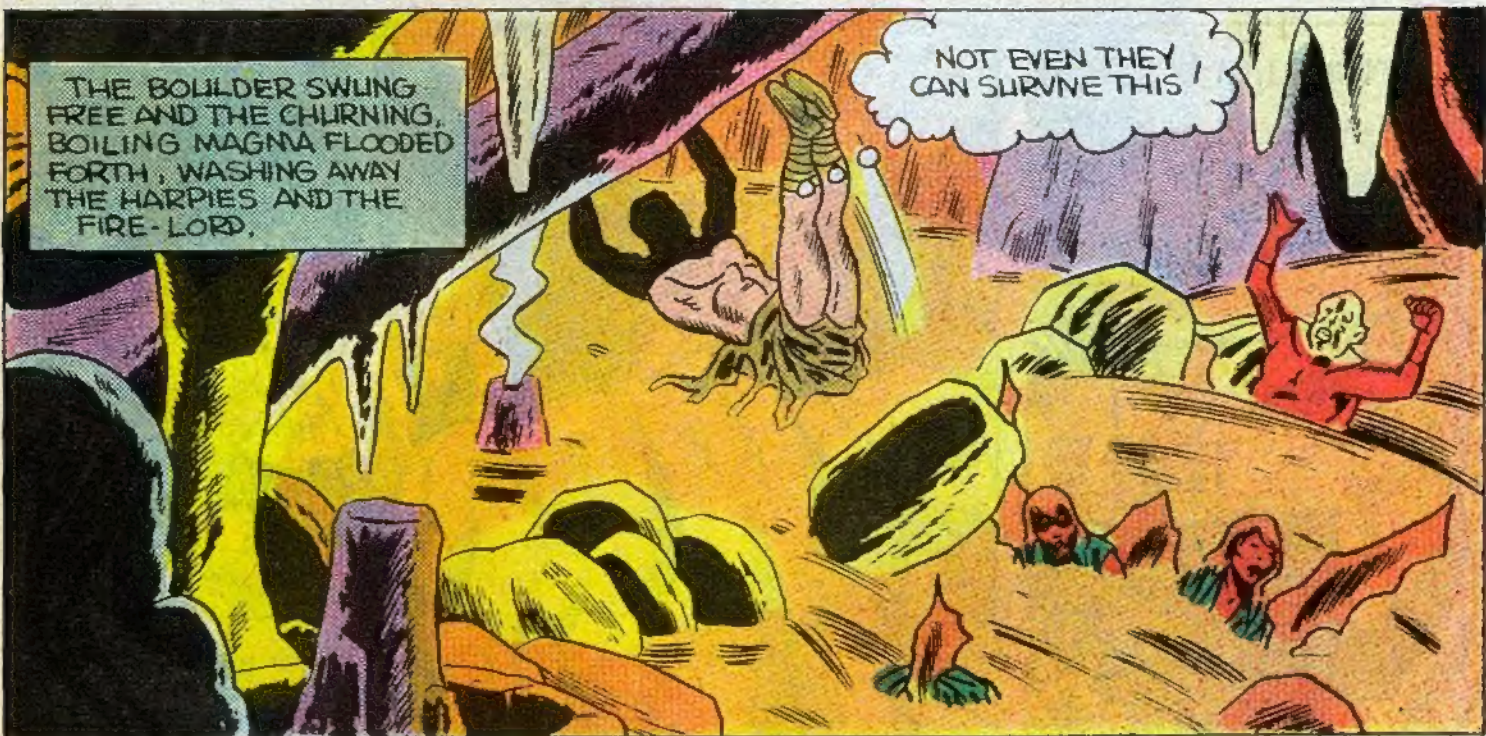
IF I CAN
ONLY MOVE
THIS ROCK...

HURRY! HE'S
TRYING TO...



THE BOULDER SWUNG
FREE AND THE CHURNING,
BOILING MAGMA FLOODED
FORTH, WASHING AWAY
THE HARPIES AND THE
FIRE-LORD.

NOT EVEN THEY
CAN SURVIVE THIS!



BUT THE LAVA! IT'S
CONTINUING TO RISE.
SOON THIS MOUNTAIN
WILL SPEW IT FORTH
IN OCEANS!

I'VE GOT TO WARN
THE TOWN..



HIS BODY BLISTERING AND BURNED FROM
THE INTENSE HEAT, OBERYLL THREADED
HIS WAY BACK UP THE TUNNEL...

WE WILL HAVE A FEW ...JUST TIME ENOUGH
DAYS...NO MORE THAN ...TO BUILD SHIPS AND
A WEEK BEFORE IT ...SEEK THE SAFETY
ERUPTS.. OF THE SEA!



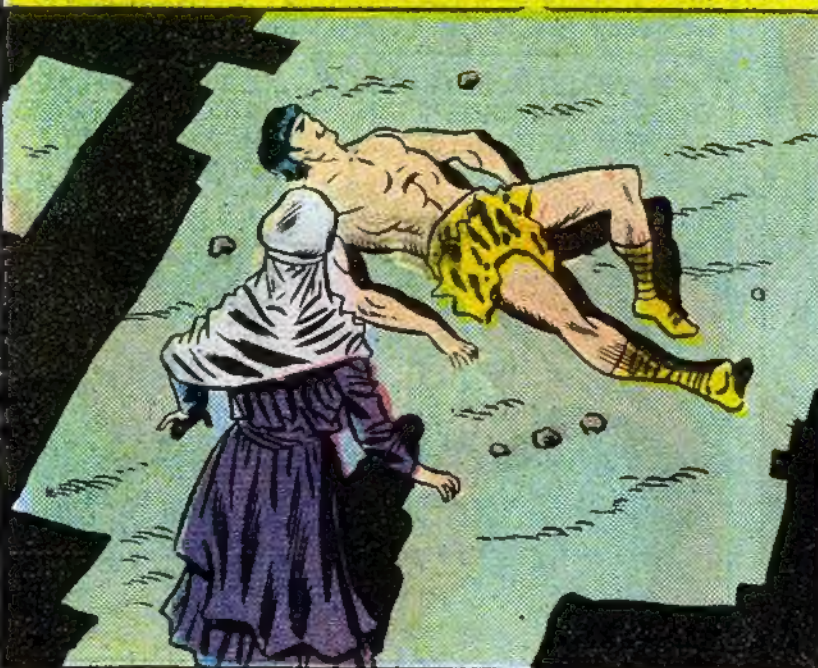
THE EFFORT IT TOOK TO STUMBLE INTO TOWN WAS SUPERHUMAN...



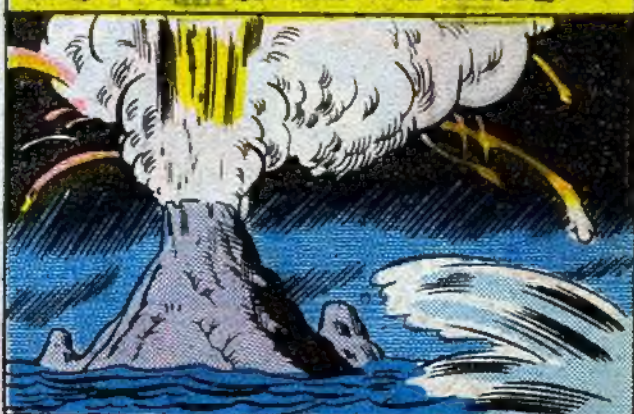
WORD OF OBERYLL'S RETURN WAS NOT LONG IN REACHING THE EARS OF THE EMPEROR...



IT WAS OVER IN A MOMENT AND OBERYLL LAY DEAD...



A FEW DAYS LATER THE MOUNTAIN DID ERUPT IN THE GREATEST VOLCANIC PAROXYSM THE WORLD HAD EVER KNOWN! INCREDIBLY POWERFUL EARTHQUAKES RENT THE LAND, AND SEAS OF LAVA COVERED THE RUBBLE.



...WHEN THE HOLOCAUST WAS OVER ATLANTIS WAS GONE AND THE SHAME OF ITS PEOPLE WAS BURIED FOREVER...